vicinity of Bhalsava landfill site in Delhi. As per the study, ground water samples contains iron, manganese, copper, lead, nickel and zinc. The study has also indicated that the concentrations of metal increase as approached towards landfill.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has also carried out a study on heavy metal levels in ground water samples surrounding the Bhalsava landfill site. The studies have indicted presence of iron and zinc. However, samples collected have shown signs of non-traceable concentration in respect of lead, chromium and cadmium.

As per Municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000, the local bodies are required to undertake improvement of existing landfill sites and design new landfill sites to protect ground water contamination. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi is in the process for setting up of new landfill facilities and also are contemplating to set up waste processing plant so that the burden on landfill for disposal of waste could be minimized.

Optimum use of runways at Delhi and Mumbai airports

*222. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are major delays for landings and take-offs at Delhi and Mumbai airports due to lack of runway space, etc.;

(b) to what extent Government have been un-prepared for the expansion of air traffic;

(c) whether Government will take the best advise possible to create immediate inter-mediate arrangements using the existing runway space;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Airports Authority of India has not used the latest methods to arrive at optimum use of existing runway and parking bay space at Mumbai and Delhi airports; and

(e) the steps proposed to call in outside experts to devise new systems for use of runway space, etc?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Constraints are being experienced

during peak hours of traffic at Delhi and Mumbai airports on account of unprecedented increase in air traffic. The development of infrastructure could not keep pace with the growth in traffic.

(c) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has also taken initiatives to improve the infrastructure at Mumbai and Delhi like construction of parallel taxiways, high speed taxiways, additional parking bays etc.

(d) The existing runway facilities at Delhi and Mumbai are being used near optimally to handle the flights within the given infrastructural constraints. AAI has also taken up construction of additional parking bays on the space available at Delhi and Mumbai Airports.

(e) A Global Technical Advisor has been engaged by AAI to assist in the process of restructuring of Delhi/Mumbai airports. Construction of second parallel runway at IGI Airport and additional taxiways have been included in the Mandatory Capital Projects to be undertaken by the Joint Venture Company (JVC) who will operate these airports after restructuring.

Inflow of tourists in Madhya Pradesh

†*223. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to constant neglect of main tourist centres of Madhya Pradesh, there is continuous decrease in the number of tourists going there;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have any figures regarding the number of foreign tourists who visited Khajuraho during the last one year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The State Government and the Central Government are committed to develop the Tourist locations of the State with a view to attracting more domestic and foreign tourists. As per the data provided by the State Government, 86,09,426 domestic tourists visited Madhya Pradesh during 2004 against 59,68,716 visits during 2003

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.